

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: MASS, IT

SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OFFICE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 224915, (B) ROME 15021, (C) ROME 13542

1. I RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM STAFFING FOR THE SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO THE MAAG: COLONEL (AIR FORCE/ARMY; LT. COLONEL (AIR FORCE/ARMY; COMMANDER (NAVY); GS-13 LOGISTICS OFFICER; GS BUDGET OFFICER; TWO FSL SECRETARIES, FSL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FSL LOGISTICS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FSL DRIVER: TOTAL PERSONNEL, 10. IDEALLY, EACH OF THE THREE SERVICES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, ALTHOUGH FOR THE NEAR FUTURE PERSONNEL ROTATIONAL PROBLEMS MAY REQUIRE TEMPORARY DEVIATIONS FROM WHAT SHOULD BE THE NORM.

2. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE PREPARED (ROME 15021) TO PLACE THE OSA ORGANIZATIONALLY WITHIN THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL/MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS SECTION (WHICH COMPREHENDS THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL-MILITARY FUNCTION) THERE MAY BE ADVANTAGES IN MAINTAINING A SEPARATE OFFICE (CONTINUING THE CLOSE COORDINATION THAT NOW EXISTS BETWEEN THE MAAG AND THE P/M-A SECTION) REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OSA PERSONNEL IN DEALING WITH THE STATUS-CONSCIOUS ITALIAN MILITARY, IN ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. COMMANDS IN ITALY AND AS WELL
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IN ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE U.S. COMMAND HIERARCHY COULD

BE IMPAIRED BY RELEGATING IT TO WHAT WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS A LESSER POSITION WITHIN THE EMBASSY ORGANIZATION.

3. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE MAAG AND THE APPARENT LIMITATIONS UPON THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS SUCCESSOR IMPOSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976. MANY OF THE NON-SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS OF THE MAAG RESULTED FROM RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BASE COMMANDERS IN ITALY AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICE COMMANDS, TO RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SERVICE AND UNIFIED COMMANDS AND THE ITALIAN MILITARY SERVICES AND A HOST OF ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. ANY REDUCTION IN THESE FUNCTIONS, OR THE TRANSFER OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM, TO AN AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THIS MISSION WILL ALMOST INEVITABLY DETRACT FROM OUR ABILITY TO CLOSELY MONITOR THEM. I WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OSA ARE SUFFICIENY FLEXIBLE TO PERMIT THE SENIOR OFFICER OF THE OSA TO RETAIN THE TITLE AND FUNCTION OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE AS PROVIDED BY EUCOM DIRECTIVE 56-13 AS WELL AS CONTINUING HIS ROLE OF CONTACT OFFICER AS OUTLINED IN EUCOM DIRECTIVE 56-9. THE DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE FUNCTION IS AN ESSENTIALLY COLLATERAL ONE INVOLVING ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION AND WOULD APPEAR TO BE WITHIN THE TOR. THE CONTACT OFFICER ROLE MAY PRESENT SOME PROBLEMS ENTAILING AS IT DOES OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. IT IS POSSIBLE MOREOVER THAT THE STAFFING ENVISAGED WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE IN THE LONG RUN TO HANDLE THE FUNCTION IN AS TIMELY A MANNER AS WE WOULD LIKE. BUT IN MY VIEW THE CONTACT OFFICER FUNCTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDING EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE MORE THAN 30 U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN ITALY AND TO MAINTAINING ADEQUATE MISSION OVERSIGHT OF THOSE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTALLATIONS THAT COULD HAVE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. AS INDICATED IN REF B THE OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE IS NOT STAFFED TO ABSORB THESE FUNCTIONS NOR DO I BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE FOR IT TO DO SO. INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DAO WOULD IN MY ESTIMATION TEND TO DETRACT FROM, AND OBSCURE, THAT OFFICE'S PRIMARY FUNCTION.

4. OSA AS A DESIGNATION FOR THE MAAG SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION CONTINUES EMPHASIS ON QUOTE ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE AND ITS IMPLIED OFFICIAL USE

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CATION OF DENIAL OF THE MORE MATURE U.S./ITALIAN RELATIONSHIP THAT NOW PREVAILS. I SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO A DESIGNATION THAT SUBSTITUTES QUOTE COORDINATION UNQUOTE OR QUOTE LIAISON UNQUOTE FOR QUOTE ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE AND MAKES EXPLICIT THE MILITARY CHARACTER OF THE GROUP. USE OF THE TERM QUOTE SECURITY UNQUOTE WOULD IMPLY TO MANY ITALIANS ACTIVITIES NOT NECESSARILY MILITARY. IF WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF LEGISLATION, I WOULD SUGGEST THE USE OF QUOTE MUTUAL DEFENSE

LIAISON GROUP UNQUOTE OR QUOTE MUTUAL DEFENSE COORDINATION OFFICE UNQUOTE OR SOME PERMUTATION THEREOF AS THE MOST ACCURATE DESIGNATION DESCRIPTIVELY THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO OUR HOSTS.

5. THERE HAS NOT OF COURSE BEEN A FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO THE GOI OF THE MAAG DIS-ESTABLISHMENT. WE AWAIT THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND HOWEVER THAT THE ACHESON/TARCHINNI AGREEMENT OF JAN 27, 1950, WHICH MAY REQUIRE EITHER ABROGATION OR AMENDMENT, AND WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP THAT CAME TO BE CALLED THE MAAG, CONTAINS OTHER PROVISIONS BOTH OF SUBSTANCE AND PHILOSOPHY THAT MAY NOT BE ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN, OR FORM THE BASIS FOR, LATER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY. AS INDICATED IN REF C WE BELIEVE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOI MIGHT CONSIDER SOME TOKEN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OSA WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ACHESON/TARCHIANI AGREEMENT. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH THE ITALIANS, PENDING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD. VOLPE

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